

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 EB-08 COME-00 /067 W
-----076355 051722Z /50

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3893
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO
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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 00324

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, AWACS, FR
SUBJ: NATO AWACS: POSSIBLE FRENCH PARTICIPATION
AS SUBSCRIBER

REF: STATE 310927 DTG 310U11Z DEC 77

1. AFTER REVIEWING COST DATA FOR POSSIBLE FRENCH
SUBSCRIBER CONTRIBUTION TO NATO AWACS IN REFTTEL,
WE OFFER FOLLOWING COMMENTS. WE DO NOT POSSESS
TECHNICAL EXPERTISE HERE SUFFICIENT TO DETERMINE
WHETHER FRENCH WOULD CONSIDER THIS AN EQUITABLE
FORMULA OR NOT. THE ONLY GENUINE TEST WILL COME
WHEN AND IF THE FORMULA IS TRIED OUT ON THE FRENCH.

2. RE PHASING OF FRENCH CONTRIBUTION, WE BELIEVE
FRENCH WOULD FIND IT MORE PALATABLE TO BEGIN
SUBSCRIBER CONTRIBUTION AT INITIAL OPERATIONAL
CAPABILITY (IOC) IN 1982 OR 1983. THIS IS
BECAUSE FIVE YEAR DEFENSE SPENDING PROGRAM FOR
1977-82 ENVISIONED NO FUNDS FOR AWACS.

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3. FINALLY WE WOULD UNDERLINE THAT WE DO NOT BELIEVE
FRENCH WILL MAKE ANY AWACS DECISIONS UNTIL AFTER MARCH
1978 LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS. FRENCH ARE COGNIZANT
THAT SUCH DECISIONS ARE NEEDED PRIOR TO JULY 1, 1978.
HARTMAN

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